

Final Meeting Minutes
Law Enforcement Committee
Board of Wildlife Resources
7870 Villa Park Drive, Board Room
Richmond, Virginia 23228

August 16, 2023
2:00 pm

Present: Mr. John Daniel, Chair, Mr. Jon Cooper, and Mr. Tom Sadler; **Board Members in attendance:** Mr. Leon Boyd, Mr. Woody Woodall, and Mr. George Terwilliger; **Executive Director:** Mr. Ryan J. Brown; **Deputy Directors:** Ms. Becky Gwynn and Mr. Darin Moore; **Director's Working Group:** Colonel John Cobb, Mr. Bob Smet, Dr. Mike Bednarski, Mr. Tom Guess, Mr. George Braxton, Mr. Paul Kugelman, Ms. Paige Pearson, Mr. Rob Lewis

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm and welcomed everyone to the meeting. The Chair noted for the record that there was a quorum present for the meeting.

Meeting Minutes: The Chair called for a motion to approve the minutes of the May 24, 2023, committee meeting. Mr. Cooper made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 24, 2023, meeting minutes. It was seconded by Mr. Sadler. Ayes: Daniel, Cooper, and Sadler

Public Comment – Non-Agenda Item: The Chair called for Public Comment – Non-Agenda Item. Hearing none, the Chair continued with the meeting.

CPO Recruitment Update: The Chair called on Major Milt Robinson for an update.

Major Milt Robinson gave an update of the current CPO Recruitment Process.

After comments and questions, the Chair thanked Major Robinson for the update.

The Illicit Reptile Trade in Virginia: The Chair called on Conservation Police Officer's for a presentation.

CPO's Ritchie, and Rabago gave an enlightening presentation on the Illicit Reptile Trade in Virginia.

Ms. Becky Gwynn, Deputy Director, spoke regarding the Illicit Reptile Trade.

After lots of comments and questions, the Chair thanked CPO's Ritchie, and Rabago for their presentation.

Law Enforcement Chief Update: The Chair called on Colonel John Cobb for an Update.

Colonel John Cobb gave a Law Enforcement Update:

- Excellent Fieldwork by Officers (22 new officers in the field)
- Outstanding responses to Multiple Boating Incidents (Public Safety)
- Participated in 52 National Night Out Events (Educational Programs)
- Conducted over 200 Outreach Programs in the first six months of 2023, which included a recruitment component (Every CPO is a Recruiter)
- Teaching Water Safety and Boat Operation Courses to other agencies
- West Virginia K-9 Program = great cases w/Dogs & Handlers we trained

- On the Administrative side of Law, currently having to fill some key positions, both HQ administrative assistants, the Support Services Major, and the Administrative Investigations / Compliance Captain

Director's Report: The Chair called on Executive Director Ryan Brown for his Director's Report.

The Director reported:

- Thanked Captain Angela Comer for her work and dedication to the agency and Law Enforcement and wished her well in her new job.

Chair's Report:

The Chair thanked the Colonel for his presentation and all of his updates.

The Chair announced the next Law Enforcement committee meeting will be Wednesday, October 25, 2023, and asked if there were any additional comments, hearing none, he adjourned the meeting at 3:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Frances Boswell